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From: CN=Tim Vendlinski/OU=R9/O=USEPA/C=US
Sent: Wed 3/21/2012 7:03:59 PM
Subject: Re: Comments from water contractors
Estuarine Habitat Workshop agenda revised VC 03-18-12.doc
Estuarine Habitat Workshop agenda draft SFCWA comments.doc

When we have our final workshop planning call tomorrow (Thursday 10:00-11:30), let's discuss whether any of the Track Changes contributed by the contractors do anything to make the purpose statements and questions stronger and/or more neutral (see the document labeled VC 03-18-12). I have an open mind, and I'm willing to make changes that we think will be constructive to the dialogue.

In the second attachment (labeled SFCWA comments), I think BJ undercuts his credibility when he completely refutes the science behind the link between the positions of X2 and the LSZ and resulting fish abundances. Comment [W10] is especially sweeping: "The chart and the questions above reference to it implicitly assume that X2 and the LSZ location are important factors driving fish abundance. Evidence for this assumption is lacking." I'm assuming that BJ read the summary of scientific papers prepared by Thomas, and it's unfortunate that he still concludes that "evidence...is lacking." Of course, the scientists are all aware of the uncertainty surrounding the biological indicators, and that's why individuals like Dr. Monismith stressed the need for the workshop to discuss ways to "manage the uncertainty."

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Date: 03/21/2012 08:27 AM
Subject: Comments from water contractors

I've just gotten permission from Val Connor to share the attached with the EPA team prior to the workshop. These are comments from some of the water contractors' technical staff on the draft agenda and questions.

I thought it would be helpful for us all to see these ahead of the workshop. Even if you leave the "official" questions as they are now, these comments provide good insight into the sorts of things that will come up at the workshop next week. It's always good to start the conversation as early as possible.

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